Then steps sounded in the hall, and

"Walter, your father-your mother

Without another word he turned and

It was Blount who first spoke. With

bluff cheeriness of greeting in his

A snort of indignation from Mrs.

Blount interrupted the complacency of

the two men, who turned toward her

"What's the matter, mother?" the

husband questioned, with a touch of

The wife in her turn assumed a pose

"Get that, Sadie?"

suited to the event and spoke in tones

"Huh!" Walter ejaculated huffily.

"Father, why don't you introduce m

"Sure do!" Walter remarked, with a

grimace. "I'm just dying to meet

Blount cleared his throat impressive

ly and spoke with a bow as low as a

"Mother," he said tenderly, "this is

"Ain't he the cute little son!" she

with fond haste toward the disconcert-

ed Walter, with the evident intention

of bestowing on him a chaste embrace.

"Aw, cut that out?" the son cried,

"Oh, thunder!" Walter expostulated.

"No use, of course," she admitted

gravely. "It's funny, though," she

added, a little wistfully; "just for a

minute I felt, somehow, like you might

be my boy, sure enough-the one I

never had. Ain't that the limit now?"

situation caused her again to speak.

"Do you know what you're

against?" he questioned shrilly.

gurgle of laughter.

you'll see, all right."

"I can't see that he's changed a mite,

"Aw, cut that!" Walter insisted sul-

tell you, straight, this game's danger-

"You don't meant the one here-

By a great effort of self control

"Well, well!" he exclaimed patroniz-

Blount reassumed his manner of genial-

of Andrew's, and merely to oblige him

"Yes, John," she said, "and you know

he absolutely assured us that the whole

hesitated slightly, then continued

doubtfully, "But if it's as Watter

"Listen here, son," he said presently,

with a return to his kindlier manner.

"If I'm going to be a father to you

tain-not merely when somebody else

(To Be Continued.)

Mrs. Blount spoke aggressively.

says"- She broke off, frowning.

dad," she remarked, with a mellow

"Say, what's the use of that bunk?"

Mrs. Blount spake seriously now.

disgustedly, as he drew back in alarm

before the threatened onslaught.

"Oh, sonny!" She advanced

our son-our only son to this date, Wal-

generous paunch would permit.

Mrs. Blount beamed roguishly.

"This is all so-so affecting!"

Mrs. Blount interrupted:

broken with emotion.

to my son?"

heavy voice, he said:
"Well, well! How are you, son?"

He smiled a genial welcome. Walter replied briskly in kind:

went out of the room.

"Fine, dad!"

interrogatively.

solicitude in his manner.



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Walter's gaze followed in astonish-

Master Mind walked slowly forward

until he stood close, face to face with

his tool. Though he wore a livery, as

befitted his pretended place in the household, there was nothing of the

servile in the clear cut face and the

erect body as his keen gray eyes re-

garded speculatively the disconcerted

when he spoke, but he ran in it an un-

Walter had recourse to bluster.

dertone of menace

"You won't continue?"

should know where I was."

spoke into the transmitter:

shoulder.'

years.'

- are you, anyhow?"

"Say, what's that number?"

youth before him. His tone was mild

"No, I won't!" he declared gruffly

You heard me say it the first time

"Very well, then," Andrew vouch

safed, still in that voice of ominous calm. "I suppose that I must notify the Pinkertons so that you may return

to your former condition-the condition

The young man labored to preserve

"At least," he vouchsafed sulkily, "I

"Oh, there could be no doubt as to

"And you would know your

that," Andrew conceded with a grim

destination also for a certainty-Sing

Andrew wasted no time in pleading.

instead, he went to the telephone as

one end of the long library table and

"Hello! Give me 100 Rector."
The voice of Walter sounded swiftly.

The Master Mind turned from the

mitter and replied with significant

"The Pinkertons."
"Walt, Andrew; wait!" Walter cried

desperately. "I'll stick," he said

This reference diverted the victim's

attention again to the general subject

of his grievance over enforced igno-

"Father, huh!" he exclaimed, with a

jeering laugh. "Say, when am I go-

be curious, I'd like to know? Answer

me that. You've been drumming them

"He will come," was the unperturb-

life last night from the attack of some

hardly be expected to understand. But

The thier flushed hotly under the un-

"How can he?" he persisted. "Ac-

cording to your instructions, I beat it

right after the shooting. Wainwright

of my name and address, I'm think

"I attended to that." Andrew an

Walter voiced apprehension in anoth-

"That fellow ain't no rummy," he ob

jected querulously. "Say, if I'd ever

wright I wouldn't have come in. 'The

hardly got a glimpse of me, much less

veiled insuit of the words, but he

he is a gentleman. Walter, and he will

Wainwright ain't coming."

felon he had sent up the river."

therefore come to thank you."

er direction.

The Master Mind smiled coldly.

showed no disposition to resent it.

prove that he'll come here."

brevity, though quite without empha

(Continued.) whe I am don't cut any ice! ed to be in the crowd and I heard you asking the cop out the guy that butted in and let u out. I got a line on that guy, and did he observe another form which was standing motioniess just within

companies of the state of the s

CHAPTER AV. A Family Made to Order.

LIJIAM SLOCOMB, alias Diamend Willie, ales Walter Blount, sat in the library of the house of which he etically master and sought to divert his tedium by playing Canfield solitable. Nominally he was indeed the head of the house, which had been taken in his name for the season, and he was about to entertain there his ative parents, come on a visit from in which I found you. Shall I?" ir home in Laramie, Wyo. . As a natter of fact, however, Walter was a an undaunted demeanor. suppet in the hands of the ruan who was serving him as butler. That inenious individual, by name Andrew illen, had decided that this particular hief would fit admirably into his chemes. The accomplishment of his lesign was not difficult, since at just this time Walter was closely pursued by the Pinkertons for a recent offense against the law, and the offer of an

Andrew had maintained so much secrecy us to the nature of his plans that Walter's curiosity was provoked, and this soon drove him to dissatisfaction forgot his first relief over securing a garded the young man with cold disgrew fretthe over the dull routine of mitter and replied with significant days and nights. He was dishonest by nature, a thief by choice. His slightly prognatious jaw showed merely moral eneracy, not firmness of will At sty-five years of age he was a erine, but incompetent. Neverthe Andre ens as yet his evil nature was not graven clearly in the lines of his face, which a careless observer might have ed winningly boyish! Now as he sat erect in his dinner jacket by the table on which the cards were display-ed to did justice by his appearance to the judgment of Andrew in this selection as the pseudo young gentieman of means come out of the west for a trial of the metropolitan life. He scowled heavily, and his jaw shot out sullenly as the trial of the eards procisimed his ful family retainer. ss. He shot a baleful glance toward the irreproachable manservant, confidential man and valet and butler, who for some time had been standing you know, sir. Why, Master Walter, the Master Mind, though neeting with the Master Mind, though neeting with the Master Mind, though at a little distance in an attitude of I have served your father for many

"Well, Parker," he snapped, "whatthe devil are you standing around waiting for?"

"For you to finish the game, sir." "And then what?" "To take the cards away, sir."

The young man sneered. that's it, is it?" he drawled, this sister of mine? Why shouldn's 1 "You're waiting to take the cards

"Yes, sir. Mr. Andrew's orders, sir." into me all this time." The words, decorously spoken, were the last straw to the burden on Wala memorandum containing the instructer's patience. With an oath he selzed tions you are to follow when Mr the pack and threw it violently to the Wainwright comes," was the reply.

"Well, take them away, then!" he snarled, with an evil grin. He sprang day-for want of anything better to to his feet and moved about the room nervously for a minute.

"Say, you!" he cried. "You know who I am, don't you?" he demanded. in evidence. There was a vague sug-

And now there came a subtle change in the inflections of the menial's voice, though its respectful quality was still gestion of satisfaction in his tones as Walter muttered a curse.

"Kept it to yourself mighty close, didn't you?" he stirmed rather than interrogated. "Oh, I was on to you the minute I saw you! Walter spoke with some relaxation of his aggrieved manner, for it was a relief to cast off disguise in the presence of this fellow. and this Mr. Andrew-tell me, Parker, was in he, unshow? What's his little

The anticipation of information from this source was not to be realized. "I have been with Mr. Andrew for some time, sir," he said with an inerensed precision of utterance and a reversion to his customary "sir." "I merer nak questions. I simply obey

"He's got to show me," Walter "that's all. He's got to show me what this game is about or I'll man he got him. They say he even got | for a little while." the goods on the Master Mind some how and has him buffaloed. Anyhow the Master Mind went out of business and hasn't been heard of for years. tions with a wave of his hand: And you taust know what he was. There wasn't anything he couldn't pull Mr. and Mrs. Blount, your son." off till Wainwright came along." "Yes, I've heard of him," Andrew

admitted. Walter went on, speaking with en-

thusiasm. "Why, that fellow was the cleveres this country ever produced," he declared, with sincere admiration in his voice. "I tell you he only touched the high spots-banks, corporations, the classiest things going. The men that worked for him even never got their lamps on him, and the bulls never had nothing on him. And then Wainwright got after him and threw a scare into him so he up and got cold feet and quit. So what chance you got? Huh!" "That question need not concern you in the least, Walter. It is sufficient for you that I have guaranteed your safety." He paused as Parker ap-

"Mr. and Mrs. Blount have arrived, sir," Parker explained. "They are in

peared in the doorway waiting for his

the drawing room, sir." "Tell them that I shall see them at once," Andrew directed. "Let me know instantly when Miss Blount arrives." He nodded dismissal to the servant and turned again to the fuming young man opposite him. His voice bunded in sharp command, "You, Walter, will go to your room at once and study the memorandum until I send for you to meet your parents."

As he passed into the drawing room ment the figure of the servant as it Andrew cast one swift glance toward went noiselessly out of the room, and a small table on the far side of the not until it had vanished into the hall room and noted with an almost imperceptible smile a tiny shimmer of blue was standing motionless just within light that shone from the solitaire diathe doorway-that of Andrew himself. | mond placed there in readiness for the There was a dead stience while the coming of his guests. The husband



Andrew put down the instrument and was a large man, of plethoric form and once again faced Walter. Now, his a strong, rough, rugged face, redly face was menacing. "Hereafter, please tanned by outdoor airs, the tint more remember, Diamond, the next time I florid from good cheer. His expression have occasion to call you Diamond was kindly, after a rude fashion of its Willie a Pinkerton will tap you on the own, and with a pervasive suggestion of force, under which the latent weak-Under the taunt the fickle mood of ness was with difficulty discernible. the youth flared in a new gust of rage. The woman, however, was less com-"Say," he cried viciously, "who the plex, tall and handsome in a flamboyant way, with no trace whatsoever of

Instantly the Master Mind assumed intellectuality or spiritual development, the respectful demeanor of the faith merely an easy going, pleasure loving creature, untroubled by scruples of con-"Why, sir," he said gently, "I'm your science. Both betrayed an acute anxthey knew him only as Mr. Andrew.

CHAPTER V.

Getting Acquainted. FELL, Andrew, we're here, Blount said rather inanely after a short period of silence. "How long's the game going to keep us in New York?"

"Why?" Andrew asked sharply. "Why-er-that is, you know"-Andrew interrupted reassuringly:

"On your table, Walter, you will find "You need have no fear of the authorities. I shall protect you. There can be no trouble for you if you are discreet. Your only danger lies in curi-"Oh, that!" sneered Walter. "I've osity and in disregarding my instrucbeen over it already a dozen times totions.'

Blount whirled toward his wife with do in this dead and alive house of a sigh of relief. mine-not! But what's the use of it! "Get that, Sadie?" he demanded, with a note of marital authority in his

heavy voice. "Just you remember it, ed answer. "He thinks you saved his or else you'll be back in Joliet doing those fancy stitches on bed ticking." The woman nodded assent. "Well, suppose he does. That doesn't "I certainly got that," she affirmed "Of course," he admitted, "you could

in a rich, throaty voice, modified by a I've agreed to adopt a son and daughfaint twang. "But I been honest so ter for a few weeks."

Shaped enough, makes our collar work stopped all pain and one bottle cured faint twang. "But I been honest so long now I'm actually beginning to feel honest-inside. And, what's more, and I never did think it could be anyways possible, but you can shoot me if thing was only a harmless joke." She I sin't kind of beginning to-to like it!" Andrew gave no heed to this virtuous confession.

"You are about to meet the boy whom I have selected for your son. A word of warning-don't trust him!" "Does he know anything about our I've got to be it all the time, that's cerrecord?" Blount inquired doubtfully. is around. I can't be a fond father

At lrew's reply was explicit. "He knows no more of you than you one minute and then be hating your do of him. If you value your safety you will bear in mind my advice-that you keep him in ignorance." He stepped to a bell call set in the wall and known the game was against Wain- pushed the button. "Now, your son will be here in a moment. You have Pinkertons would be just as safe, be only to remember what I have said, how much it hurts me," lieve me. Whenever he went after a I shall leave you two alone with him

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ous. Do you know, it's some kind of Agents for CORONA-Standard Folda frame up Andrew's got against Waining-TYPEWRITERS "Wainwright!" Blount cried, aghast at this disquieting statement as to the

SIDE WALKSthing in which he had become involv-Sand and Gravel THE BURNS CO. CITY SAVINGS BANK

the one that was district attorney?" "That's just the guy I mean," was the savage assurance. 852 MAIN STREET ROOM 501 BROKEN STONE, ALL SIZES ROOFING Blount showed symptoms of alarm. His ruddy face grayed a little, and the heavy flesh of the jowls sagged.

"It don't look good to me," Blount confessed somberly. "What's the idea?" We Recommend That Walter shook his head in admission of ignorance. You Let Us Send For "All I know is that he's got it in for Your Family Wash Wainwright." Again he shook his head. "That's all I know. Whatever

it is, it's something fierce. If you don't around. You watch him then, and factory Results.

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insides the next, although when this thing is all over I might feel some dif-A harmiess and sure remedy for Constipation, Torpid Liver, Headache, Billousness, and Foul Breath. Made fferent-yes! But as long as we're on this game I'm going to think a heap from the formulae of a celebrated specialist of New York City. Do the of you. Yes, that's the program, and it's got to be carried out no matter work pleasantly—do not gripe 10c, 25c, 50c. At all drug stores or direct on receipt of price. Curts Chemical Co., 117 E. 24th St., New York.

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